

Younger accused of Scots 'betrayal'

by Olga Wetlas
Scottish Correspondent

The Government decision to close two Scottish education colleges and merge a third has come under double attack. There were stormy scenes in the Scottish Grand Committee this week as MPs called on Government ministers to resign, accusing them of betrayal, cowardice and cynicism.

There was particular criticism as Scottish Secretary, Mr George Younger, and Scottish Education Minister, Mr Alex Fletcher, had been in the forefront of the campaign to save colleges under threat from the Labour Government in 1977.

Mr Younger's speech on the geographical and regional reasons for the decision and his defence of his lack of consultation in preventing "a wretched period of insecurity" was consistently interrupted by infuriated MPs.

The ministers came under unexpected attack from two of their own MPs, although all the

Tories abstained from a motion carried 40-0 to report the debate to the Commons. It is possible there will be an attempt to hold another debate in the Commons.

The General Teaching Council for Scotland, which advises the Scottish Secretary on supply, has strongly criticized the plans to close Hamilton College in Lanarkshire.

The council recommended in March a reduction in Scotland's 10 colleges, beginning with smaller ones. The Scottish Education Department said that while it recognized the valuable contribution Hamilton had made to pre-service and in-service training, the college has only 350 students and a surplus of accommodation.

The council was angered that no notice was taken of its advice stressing that Lanarkshire and Glasgow, areas of traditional shortage, needed special attention.

Following news that Hamilton students are taking advice on whether the Scottish Secretary can legally close the colleges, a plea

against Hamilton's closure has gone to the EEC.

A document from the "Hands Off Hamilton College" campaign has been given to EEC Commission president, Mr Roy Jenkins, and to the commissioner for social affairs, stating that the closure would discriminate against one of Scotland's most educationally deprived areas. The appeal comes at a time when the Government is trying to tap EEC funds for areas of deprivation such as Lanarkshire.

Scottish MPs received a 75-page document before the debate from another threatened college, Caledonian Park, calling for a public inquiry into the college's future.

The document criticized Mr Fletcher for breaking his promise of a consultation document, which meant an one could check the arguments or the evidence which led to his conclusion before the announcement of closures.

"We have been forced to pit ourselves against the accuracy of a large and powerful system. We

cannot believe that the creation of these disadvantages was other than an intention to put us in a position of weakness", said the document.

It goes on to dispute the population projections used by the Scottish Secretary, saying that there will be an increase of 28 per cent in the pre-school age group in the next 10 years, not a decline.

Creighton College of Education, one of Scotland's two Roman Catholic colleges, is due to be merged with another institution, but it seems that Education Department officials are unhappy. A confidential report shows that there may be legal problems over guaranteeing that there could be no guarantee that another institution could assimilate all the academic and non-academic staff.

The college's chaplain, Rev Andrew Monaghan, has condemned the merger plans as impractical. To merge the Roman Catholic college with an institution with different values is flawed and hollow logic, he says.

There was some opposition to a withdrawal, but the committee was given little alternative after being the Nuffield national executive reasons for reconsidering the agreement. The vote was 14 for withdrawal and five against with four abstentions.

According to the national executive, the agreement was not properly ratified before the 1981 Employment Act, which requires 100 per cent support in a ballot.

Any lecturer dismissed as a result of the operation of the agreement could claim under dismissal, and anyone unreasonably expelled from or deprived admission to Nuffield could claim up to £10,000 compensation.

The committee is to ask the Executive to send a senior member to Leeds to explain the decision leading up to the decision to draw to councillors.

This move has been anticipated for some time, although there are likely to be problems on its implementation from the staff unions.

An argument has been over membership figures for Scotland's largest teaching union, the Education Institute of Scotland, demanding the majority of the seats on the new negotiating body.

The 50,000-strong EIS of present dominates the Scottish Teachers' Salaries Committee, the negotiating body for school and further education teachers. Its further education section, which would now negotiate separately, claims a membership of 3,500, which it says is equal to the combined membership of the Scottish Further Education Association, the college lecturers' union, and the central institutions union.

The EIS says it will not accept representation on a body on which the majority group could be outvoted by the combined votes of the minority group. It adds that the membership claimed by the SFEA is grossly inflated.

Mr David Blainman, SFEA general secretary, gave his union's membership as 1,750, and said the EIS, which has sent its views to the Scottish Secretary, were "people in glass houses".

There has been general scepticism over EIS membership figures from other unions in the tertiary sector. Their preference is a new negotiating body for parity of sector, with equal divisions for further education, education colleges and central institutions.

Mr Blainman said the principle of a single negotiating body had been established by the Houghton Committee's report on non-university teachers' pay in 1974, and this had been recognized by the present Government and its predecessor.

Mr Blainman warned that the Scottish Secretary would have to look very carefully at all the unions' membership figures.

The Scottish Education Bill also transfers the power of appointing principals from the Crown to the councils of St Andrews, Glasgow and Aberdeen universities. This could affect Aberdeen University in the future, as its principal, Sir Ernie Noble, has announced he will retire some time next year.

Leeds drops closed shop deal

by David Jobbins

Lecturers' union leaders in Leeds are to drop their controversial post-entry closed-shop agreement with the city council.

The Lincoln committee representing branches of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education in the city voted last week to negotiate for a withdrawal "as soon as possible".

The committee's acting chairman, Mr Mike Wilkinson, decided that in view of the vote this union would not operate the agreement.

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Carlisle abandons level funding

by John O'Leary

Despite a £30m reduction in their budgets for next year universities are to escape the worst cuts in higher education over the next three years. It was revealed this week. Figures produced by the Department of Education and Science show that colleges and polytechnics can no longer expect to operate on level funding at today's prices.

A paper prepared for the select committee on education shows that both advanced and non-advanced further education will be expected to operate on reduced unit costs of at least until 1981. Universities are nominally given the same degree of funding per student.

The document, originally produced for the Expenditure White Paper, finally abandons the policy of level funding which has been the Government's stated intention for the whole of higher education.

Although the cost per student of universities is to remain at £3,150 for the duration of the

current planning period, the figure for advanced further education elsewhere is set to drop from £2,300 to £2,200 in 1983-84. In non-advanced further education, the figure for 1983-84 will be £1,240, compared with the current £1,300.

Unit costs in the public sector are provisionally shown to have been reduced this year, while that for the universities has risen for the third successive year.

Student numbers in the universities are also expected to remain constant at this year's level of 265,000, while the public sector declines marginally. Numbers in advanced courses in polytechnics and colleges are shown to drop from this year's figure of 165,000 to 160,000 in 1983-84.

The figures were revealed at a session of the select committee where Mr Mark Carlisle, Secretary of State for Education, spent two hours answering MPs' questions on this week's round of educational cuts. He repeated his previous statement that the level of provision would be lower than many authorities had hoped

or expected, but this did not necessarily mean a fall in the standard of education. The impact over the whole country would be difficult to assess.

The cuts would inevitably fall heavily on some authorities, such as the Inner London Education Authority, which would suffer "considerable" losses. This was part of the government's stated intention to redress the balance of spending between London and the provinces, he said, but he could not confirm that the cut in the ILA's budget would amount to 14 per cent.

On the question of overseas students, Mr Carlisle said the decline in numbers enrolling in the public sector was expected to be around 25 per cent, compared with the figure in universities of nine per cent for undergraduates and 11 per cent for postgraduates. However, he was careful to point out that overall numbers would still be higher than those forecast by the Labour government, particularly in the universities, which had 3,000 more students from abroad than Labour's quota would have allowed.

£40m sliced off higher education budgets

by Peter David

Higher education will suffer the lion's share of education spending cuts in 1981-82, with reductions of more than £40m in the already reduced spending plans of universities, polytechnics, colleges and research councils.

University and polytechnic research spending will be hardest hit, with a new cut of some 4 per cent in each sector next year. The Science Research Council has fared better, with a 0.5 per cent cut in research council spending.

Announcing the latest cuts in the Commons this week, Mr Mark Carlisle, the education secretary, said that the cuts would be "a painful but necessary part of the package" to reduce the government's borrowing.

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flicting a further severe blow on the universities. The combined effect of these cuts and the overseas students' policy seems likely to be an unprecedented loss of income in one year of at least 7 per cent.

Although it has not yet finalized its decision on the distribution of the £2m cuts to be made in next year's £330m science budget, the Science Research Council is expected to spread the 0.5 per cent reduction evenly across all five research councils.

This means the Science Research Council will suffer a cut of about £1.5m from its £175m budget. This reduction is not expected to be a curtailment of any major programme, and the council hopes to contain economies within existing expenditure programmes.

However, there is still concern within ARCC about the high level of cuts being inflicted on universities, which could affect laboratory support and equipment spending.

Mr Hermann Boud, chairman of the Natural Environment Research Council, which is expecting a cut of about £200,000 in its £50m budget, said there was bound to be concern within research councils. Local authority maintained polytechnics and colleges face spending reductions from two directions. The Advanced Further Education pool, the central fund which reimburses

authorities for most of their spending on higher education, is to be reduced by £12m from its planned level of £25m (excluding Wales).

In addition, the institutions will suffer from the general squeeze on local education authority spending, which will inhibit maintenance priorities from adding to their college budget from local revenue.

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London lays off staff

by Ngalo Crenner

The first redundancies of university academic staff have been made. Two academics, along with two technical staff and two technical assistants, have been declared redundant at the University of London Institute of Linguistics and Otolaryngology.

The Institute, a member of the British Postgraduate Medical Federation, which is a school of the university, has been forced to make the decision because of its grave financial crisis. It anticipates a deficit of £100,000 by the end of the 1981-82 financial year, roughly the equivalent of a quarter of its income.

It is understood that the Institute received the backing of the school and the permission of Lord Anson, the vice-chancellor of the university, to decide to act, and that if necessary, the matter will be taken to litigation. The Institute has written to Lord Anson seeking his views on the tenure position.

The staff involved have been told of the decision and are waiting for confirmation. The two academics, a senior lecturer and a research fellow, make up about a third of the full-time academic establishment at the Institute, which trains qualified medical practitioners up to consultant status.

The decision means that the Institute has the unenviable distinction of being the first institution to make academics redundant. This will throw wide open the debate about tenure and staff unions' declared resistance to such measures.

The Association of University Teachers has said it will strenuously resist any enforced redundancies. The Institute is in the process of consulting all the relevant unions. A series of other cuts have been made, including the freezing of posts and administrative economies.

Professor L. Michele, dean of the Institute said: "We really are in a desperate plight. Our grant from the university has been reduced and the financial year we have a considerable deficit in a number of different aspects of our working life."

Although the Institute has relatively few overseas students, it has the difference between what it can charge and what it actually costs to teach the students. And students on hospital staff do not pay fees.

The medical Institute generally is facing severe financial problems and has been holding talks with ministers, the university, and the university grants committee.



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BBC ban on anti-nuclear talk lifted

The BBC has agreed after all to broadcast the banned Open University lecture on the nuclear era, provided it is followed by a studio discussion.

The lecture, by OU dean of science Professor Mike Pontz, was due to be transmitted last week as part of the university's Open Forum slot. It was cancelled after the BBC said the topic was too political and not academic enough.

Lengthy discussions on the broadcast have been held between the OU and the BBC over the past few weeks. The BBC has now offered to broadcast the programme as an open lecture provided it is followed by a discussion involving OU students. Alternatively, it could go as a general programme followed by a studio debate.

The OU's acting vice-chancellor, Professor Geoffrey Vesey, said: "I welcome this and look forward to the lecture going out when the necessary arrangements have been made."

He said there would also be further talks with the BBC to clarify arrangements for future open lectures which are not part of this university's normal teaching programme.

The BBC said this week that it felt there had been inadequate discussion before rejection of the topic. Towards the final episode, a scientist's view of the nuclear arms race. It will be sending a formal statement to the OU outlining its policy on the transmission of open lectures.

Professor Pontz, who is a physicist, used to work for the European Centre for Nuclear Research in Geneva. He is chairman of the Milton Keynes Peace Council and a member of the national council of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament.

Dental reform package presses for expansion

A package of major reforms, including the introduction of a compulsory registration system for dentists, the creation of a new dental auxiliary, dental staff and a major expansion of dental research, have been put forward in a Nuffield Foundation report on dental education.

The report, published this week, follows a two-and-a-half-year investigation by the inquiry committee which was chaired by Professor Trevor Lewis, the former vice-chancellor of Liverpool University. In the course of its work, the 15-strong committee visited every dental school in Britain and took

evidence from 60 individuals and 200 organisations. It concludes that graduates should be aware of the "strong scientific and medical foundations of dentistry and of the continuing leadership necessary in modern health care."

The report proposes:
• A pre-registration year for dentists. "It is no longer acceptable that a newly graduated dentist should be employed in a post directly to 'non-supervised practice' at the request of the committee, and calls for a two-year period of vocational training to be carried out after registration.

• A major expansion of dental research, including the establishment of a National Centre for Dental Research. This report also urges that there should be a reduction of the number of dental students, as they can devote more time to research.

• The encouragement of a team approach to health care. The committee recommended the establishment of schools for auxiliary dental staff where dental therapists, dental nurses and dental technicians would be trained. There is a need to increase numbers of dentists graduating from dental schools.

• The rate of inflation over the past 10 years has been the highest in the country. They are also to ask a further reduction in their 39-hour working week, still the longest in the universities.

"Six per cent is not an" said Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, union secretary of the Central Council for University Non-teaching Staff. Leaders of the Association of University Teachers are voting for a meeting with Education Secretary Mr Mark Carlisle to discuss the 6 per cent policy and the financial framework surrounding their pay claim.

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Book lists examined for bias

by Peter David

University reading lists are to be scrutinized for political bias as part of a wide-ranging research and publishing venture being planned by a new right-wing group called the Social Affairs Unit.

A key figure in the unit, which is being set up under the wing of the Institute of Economic Affairs, is Professor Julius Gould, author in 1977 of a report detailing Marxist influences in higher education.

At a press conference in London to mark the launching of the unit last week, Professor Gould said the monitoring of university reading lists would be only a small part of the unit's work and was not "a burning issue".

But he made it clear that the unit was being established to challenge the powerful and self-serving "orthodoxy" of social scientists who championed interventionist strategies in welfare and economics.

"There is a great need to interpret and, where possible, reverse the social consequences of state action," he said. "The social scientists who impel the rulers of a modern society to intervene, intervene and intervene again until they, and a host of subsidiary modellers, and crimping the society they claim to love".

Much of this meddling is indeed neither healthy, useful nor inevitable. It encounters much resistance, for society in the last resort can prove stronger than the state. But



Professor Gould: Key figure

those who champion a meddling intervention include many academics and professional people. In Britain today there is a whole range of new professions made up of such champions, justifying their claims by an appeal to social science.

The new unit will be directed by former Nottingham University fellow, Dr Philip Anderson. Much of its work will consist of publishing or editing existing writing that is "lively, radical and dissenting", rather than commissioning substantive research.

Studies undertaken by the new unit will however include bias in social and political education, and the attitudes and values of teachers, lecturers and educational texts. A project arguing the case for the contraction of governmental institutions will examine the possible influence of modishness, ideology and bureaucratic self-interest.

Dr Anderson said one study being considered would consist of a critical reassessment of influential figures of the left in sociology, such as Marcuse, Timms, Townsend, Luing and Stuart Hall.

The new unit, which is to be based inside the Institute for Economic Affairs in Westminster, will seek sponsorship from both sides of industry but not from government. Dr Anderson refused to name organizations which had already contributed funds.

One reason for establishing the unit, Dr Anderson said, was the "odd" imbalance evident in the policies of publishers towards sociology and education. Mrs June Laft, a consultant for the unit, said that one publisher had rejected a recent book of hers on the grounds that it would "offend" social workers.

Dr Anderson said the selection of books by academics for university reading lists was a powerful ideological tool. "We would say it is not up to us to show they are being abused. It is up to the universities to show they are not."

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Polys increase the PACE by setting up formal association

by Charlotte Barry

A formal association to promote the growth of continuing education in polytechnics is to be set up next year. Proposals for the Polytechnic Association of Continuing Education (PACE) were given the formal go-ahead at the second polytechnic association conference on continuing education.

The association aims to promote collaboration between polytechnics in the development of continuing education and the exchange of information and ideas. It also intends to encourage more continuing education provision in polytechnics, provide a focus for the national recognition of work in that field, and set up a formal credit transfer system.

In a report presented to the conference, the steering committee for PACE emphasized that polytechnics can claim to be in the vanguard of continuing education development. First-time courses, mature students and in-service training for the professions are common features of the polytechnic scene.

It added that as polytechnics are generally situated in the centre of cities, they have the most convenient location for continuing education. Some made specific reference to short courses for re-entry students, particularly women.

Few had any specific facilities or arrangements for the provision of continuing education, however. Most said that continuing education was subsumed in the work of the separate schools, faculties and departments.

A few have created a special role for a number of staff to oversee continuing education, but only a third said they have a declared policy to promote its growth.

Changes urged in funding

Major changes in polytechnic funding and organization are needed to encourage the growth of continuing education, the chairman of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics told the conference.

Dr Raymond Ricketts, director of Middlesex Polytechnic, said that sandwich and part-time courses are now accepted practice in polytechnics but there is an increasing need for a transfer between institutions and non-traditional methods of entry for mature students.

He attacked the traditional system of a three-year full-time degree for assuming that a single session of higher education between 18 and 21 years is sufficient for life. The assumption, he said, is "a dangerous one" and encourages "the late developer and

account of in discussions about adult and continuing education. The establishment of a truly representative association of polytechnics would mean that we would be brought in."

Initially PACE will be restricted to institutional members and a fee of £100 will be levied on each member polytechnic. It will be administered by a general council with representatives from each member institution and will organize an annual conference.

The council will be expected to set up working parties to examine specific issues in continuing education and publish discussion documents. It also hopes to approach sponsors for research funding for projects carried out in particular institutions.

The proposals for the setting up of PACE were backed by the findings of a brief survey of the present state of continuing education in polytechnics. The 24 polytechnics which answered the short questionnaire all said they considered continuing education an integral part of their role.

More than half thought short courses, particularly for workers in industry, were their most important contribution to continuing education. Some made specific reference to short courses for re-entry students, particularly women.

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Dr Ricketts told the conference that the classic degree structure does not adapt readily to continuing education and the need for a more flexible approach to courses. "We must adopt forms of internal organization that get away from traditional methods," he said. "Too many times people work on a course structure only to find that it will be inappropriate for those studying on a part-time basis."

Staff promotions and support must be introduced to encourage more mid-career training and the structure of courses should allow for the gradual accumulation of credits or more than one institution, he said.

Lecturer to appeal against dismissal for misconduct

A sociology lecturer at York University is to appeal for the second time against a council decision to dismiss him for gross misconduct.

Mr Philip Virden has been suspended on full pay since February when the university council confirmed a decision of a joint committee which found proved two charges under "good cause" statutes. These were the alleged disclosure of confidential departmental information, and allegedly publishing a document accusing members of the university staff of corruption.

In 1976 Mr Virden, having been at York for six years, and having reached the age of 30, was not roiled above the salary bar. He made his attitude quite clear in a number of publications, and in one made a strong attack on the former vice-chancellor, Dr Morris Cartwright.

He also contributed to a controversial student union alternative prospectus in 1978 which was criticized by headmasters and some senior staff for its alleged pornographic content.

In December, 1978, he received a final written warning about his conduct and then in November, 1979, council decided to institute proceedings against him under "good cause" regulations.

Mr Virden said: "I am a test case for academic security of tenure. I am a non-graduate, I am a Jew, and I've got radical, free-thinking ideas—consequently there are lots of people who want to get rid of me."

Miss Anne Riddell, the university registrar, said: "We have not entered lightly into these proceedings and are certainly not threatening security of tenure. Academics, quite rightly, have much greater job security than most but that does not mean there can never be grounds for dismissal."

The council decision was referred to an appeal board consisting of Mr Alex Lyon, MP for York, Professor Robert Hart, formerly of Oxford, and Lord Sainsbury, Lord 2, a tenant of North Yorkshire. This upheld Mr Virden's claim that the joint committee report was not sufficiently full to enable council to decide whether the case did contain grounds for dismissal.

That also upheld his claim that council had been misled into believing that Mr Virden was innocent.

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Lecturers lash UGC about-turn

by David Johnson

The University Grants Committee, which for many years has been regarded as the watchdog of the universities, has turned its back on the country's economic difficulties. But the union could not accept that rationalization should be forced on lecturers on grounds of purely financial expediency.

Although reports of detailed closures in London had been immediately denied it was acknowledged that accounts of the scale of financial pressure were "not far wrong".

The question of tenure had been opened first by the vice-chancellor and secondly by the Commons select committee.

"All this adds up to a recognition that our society is under economic pressure and I repeat AUT's consistent willingness to acknowledge it. It was always easy to speak up the skills the country so desperately needs, to continue our contribution to the economy through applied research, to defend the place in our culture of the arts and humanities. In short we are the devoted goose which lays the golden eggs."

This was the context in which Ms Bawden referred to the AUT's policy document on the universities in the 1980s and 1990s.

Self-financing plans opposed

College lecturers have been told to strongly resist any attempts to make an adult education service self-financing.

In a circular letter to local branch regional secretaries the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education emphasises that its policy is for a free service.

Proposals by local education authorities to impose substantial fee increases so the service becomes self-financing places the onus for determining fees and concessions on individual authorities rather than the authority the letter says.

"Adult education is a proper part of public sector provision. Self-financing leads to the service being further isolated and exposed. It increases and debases the service."

It adds: "If fee levels are to be increased, it is important for the public to recognize that the local authority, as the providing institution, is responsible."

The union sees a further danger in self-financing and possibly the wages of part-time staff will be able to depend on "entertainment industry" and the amount of income generated.

Where self-determination is given to individual institutions, there can be a temptation for local management committees or similar bodies to pay less than the proper wage rate," it says.

Urban research company aims to continue axed centre's work

Low-independent urban research centre is being launched to replace the Centre for Environmental Studies.

CES Ltd has been founded by a staff of the centre which closed suddenly in September after the Department of Environment withdrew the grant.

A non-profit-making limited company which has no official ties with the government, CES Ltd is being headed by Dr Andrew Bradburn, former assistant director of the centre, and Sir Richard Barker, a well-known urban research project.

Dr Barker said: "We are trying to continue the tradition of the centre which built up a reputation for urban research and a lot of experience. We will do much the same sort of work and have much the same sort of autonomy as the centre."

He said the centre was able to do much more applied work than the government could do. "We will be doing more applied work than the government could do. We will be doing more applied work than the government could do."

Labour blocks new course

Edinburgh University plans to set up a new course for public administrators but the Labour Party has blocked it.

The cost of the courses would be met mainly by local authorities, with Strathclyde paying a considerable part of the total. The Labour Party has blocked it.

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Leverhulme Trust funds first chairs in biotechnology

by Robin McKie

A total of £250,000 is to be spent by the Leverhulme Trust on funding two chairs of biotechnology, the first officially designated to the subject in Britain.

The decision follows the recent recommendations made to the trust by a panel of experts. The panel's report which urged that major moves be made to boost the country's biotechnology capability. The two chairs are to be Imperial College, London, and the Cranfield Institute of Technology.

The chair at Imperial College is to be located in a centre for biotechnology which the college is to establish under the direction of Professor B. S. Huxley to coordinate interdepartmental programmes of teaching and research and provide services to industry.

The centre will also control the activities of the college's fermentation and extraction pilot plant and a new biotechnology unit which Imperial hopes to build.

The chair at Cranfield is to be

filled by Dr John Higgins, at present senior lecturer at the biological laboratory, at Kent University. It was announced this week. He will head the biotechnology unit which the institute is establishing in association with the University of Technology at Compiègne, in France.

Compiègne is a strong centre in teaching and research in the fields of applied biochemistry and microbiology and the deal will give them access to British markets. Cranfield will gain through the acquisition of expertise in specialist techniques.

The two chairs will be known as the Leverhulme chairs and will be fully funded by the trust for the first five years. After that, Cranfield and Imperial will assume financial responsibility.

Although officially designated the first British chairs in biotechnology, there have been several recent creations of posts in areas such as biochemical engineering and microbiology which cover similar areas of applied biological research.

ENGINEER YOURSELF A BRIGHTER FUTURE.

The Times Engineering Essay Competition For Students.

The Engineering Careers Information Service and The Times are jointly sponsoring an Engineering Essay Competition, with big cash prizes for the winners.

The object of the competition is to create a greater awareness of the role engineering plays in improving our daily lives.

Students in the United Kingdom, male and female, of all disciplines, engineering and non-engineering, are eligible to enter.

The competition is divided into two sections, one for sixth-formers and full-time students at colleges of further education, the other for undergraduates at a university or polytechnic.

THE COMPETITION

All students are invited to write, in not more than 750 words, on "What I expect engineers to contribute in the next 30 years to our nation's prosperity".

To have a better chance of winning, entrants may find it helpful to get to know about past engineering achievements before applying their own lively and creative ideas about the future.

There is, of course, no limit on the number of entries that can be received from any sixth-form, university or polytechnic. It will greatly assist the Judges if all entries are easy to read.

THE PRIZES

SIXTH FORMS/COLLEGES

£500 to the winning pupil.

£500 to the winning pupil's school or college.

Two runners-up prizes of £200 to pupils only.

Five consolation prizes of The Times Atlas of the World, comprehensive Edition, and £50.

UNDERGRADUATES

£500 to the winning undergraduate.

Two runners-up prizes of £250.

Five consolation prizes of The Times Atlas of the World, comprehensive Edition, and £50.

All prizes will be presented at a special reception, the details of which will be announced later.

THE JUDGES

Lord Nelson of Stafford, Chairman, General Electric Company; Lord Scanlon, Chairman, Engineering Industry Training Board; Dr Elizabeth Laverick, Deputy Secretary, Institution of Electrical Engineers; Joseph Moon, Director, Engineering Industry Training Board; Hugh Stephenson, Editor, Times Business News; Edward Townsend, Industrial Writer, Times Business News.

THE ENGINEERING CAREERS INFORMATION SERVICE:

ECIS was set up in 1976 and provides industry-based information about careers in the engineering manufacturing industry.

It is sponsored by the Engineering Industry Training Board, the Engineering Employers' Federation and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions.

Representatives of these organisations are members of its Steering Committee. Careers advisers and educationalists are also closely involved.

It produces literature and aids for young people and those who advise them on career choice. It also takes part in national and local exhibitions and conferences.

ECIS co-ordinates its work with other bodies in this field.

THE TIMES

fied about the possible effect of course restructuring on their special "identities"; and—particularly over the preservation of Catholic or Protestant concepts within certain course structures which they felt might be threatened by "phrasing". Since the religious aspects of education at all levels are also constitutionally sacred, Dr Pais had to

This led to the minister agreeing to hand over the running of this selection process to the individual university institutions, a task which none of them relished, but which appeared to offer a more flexible and democratic route to solving the bottleneck, provided that students themselves were also involved in the selection committees.

In Nijmegen, where the political opposition parties appear to be disproportionately represented at faculty level, the 36-strong university council could recently muster only a narrow 15-12 majority vote in favour of sending a motion critical of Dr Pais's reform.

Dr Pais finally was forced to accept the proposal of the

Official authors see it as no more than a step, albeit an important one, on the way to a more modern and integrated form of higher education of an internationally accepted standard—one model for which has most recently been advanced in the influential report of the De Moor Committee for the Development of Higher Education.

Twenty-three countries were presented at the Council of Europe conference which marked the of a four-year international of developments in adult education. Instead of pressing for a

'Activists allowed' says Supreme Court

Princeton is considering the possibility of appealing Schmid's acquittal to the U.S. Supreme Court. The state's highest court already has ruled that it will have a right to define for the first

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The American Civil Liberties (ACLU) defended Mr. Schindler's right to free speech, also on the basis of the First Amendment. He was represented by the constitutional scholar Sanford Levinson.

Capital requirements



Alone, or in the company of Michael (now Lord) Young or his wife Phyllis, a fellow social researcher, Mr Willmott has pursued the themes of community and kinship through the 620 square miles of the metropolitan area.

In 1979 the central fall victim to Mr. Michael Heseltine's purge of autonomous bodies financed out of his department's budget: some say it had virtually committed suicide before the Tories came to power. It will linger for a few months more, selling off old books and pamphlets.

view is held by Mr. Graham, immediate predecessor as head of the policy unit, Dr. Nicholas Deakin, now professor of social administration at Birmingham University. Perhaps, says Dr. Dookin, the holder of the job has the capacity to act as a countervailing influence, putting forward the point of view of people not catered for by the power bloc of London policies.

the same enthusiasm for embarking on a newly designed course of Professor Alan Brook, who says: "It's very exciting to be involved in all of this though of course there are still problems but it's noticeable that people come in to work here at 7.30 in the morning because we enjoy it not because we're workaholics."



The university argues that in the last few years a small minority of students, aided and abetted by a small minority of teachers, has made confrontation with the authorities a deliberate policy as part of a larger political strategy. It says that these vocal and aggressive students belong in the main to student bodies linked directly or indirectly with communist parties.

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group of students protesting the excessive severity of one of their professors. The university senate gave in to this pressure by granting the professor leave of absence, but the other professors resigned and they now refuse to stand in for their colleague.

These two parties hope to be able to overthrow their tight of control rivals how in power, in next year's elections. They would, therefore, prefer not to allow it to take the credit of restoring harmony in the Balkans.

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New report rekindles gender superiority row

...mathematics teaching... and about mathe-
...for the Johns Hop-
...researchers to suggest that
...are genetically less good at
...mathematical reasoning. "I think
...on the darned shaky ground
...draw conclusions about
...differences," said Univer-
...of Wisconsin psychologist Bilze-
...Remington.

Clive Cookson,
North American Editor,
The Times Higher Education
Supplement,
National Press Building,
Room 541,
Washington DC 20045
Telephone: (202) 638 6765

redevelopment, the design of much of the new council housing had itself contributed to the problems... monotonous housing: estates, non-stop tower blocks, drab buildings and wasteland—all these depress people and make them want to get out. Social tensions among those who do remain, along with vandalism and crime give a further push

In 1979 the central fall victim to Mr. Michael Heseltine's purge of autonomous bodies financed out of his department's budget: some say it had virtually committed suicide before the Tories came to power. It will linger for a few months more, selling off old books and pamphlets.

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هَذَا مِنْ الْقُرْآنِ

Wishing on a star role in Europe

Social science research takes a radical look at its own house

Posterity's fickle ways with Marian Evans

A black and white caricature of David Smith, a man with a large, dark, curly wig and a prominent nose, looking down at a row of five books. The books are titled 'MIDDLEMARCH', 'SILAS MARNER', 'AMOS BARTON', 'ADAM BEDE', and 'FELIX HOLT'. The signature 'David Smith' is written vertically on the right side of the image.

The author is professor of English Literature at Sussex University.

BOOKS

Forces that shattered the Union

Entente cordiale

Genesis of a novel

he lost cause of America's pacifists

[illegible]

The world of Homer's gods and heroes

complexities of many contributors pull together their punches. The editorial reference to "face to face confrontations" is rarely justified, with some sensitive topics—such as the Impenetrable records—neglected. In "dialogue after dialogue" the apparent differences there is "a deep resemblance", not to add "similarities and convergences"; therefore all we are both "the guidelines of Europe and the world" and share a "capacity for survival" which is striking. After that it is almost irrelevant to read F. B. Duroselle's "British and French react very differently to particular situations even and by grossly misunderstanding each other".

The volume, for all the merits of individual essays, does not greatly help explain this history of misunderstanding—above all perhaps because culture and the area of philosophy, politics, theory, and history of science too) have tend to be excluded. Meanwhile, pondering the wider and very desirable comparative study; it is back to the maritime fray.

D. G. Charlton

D. G. Charlton is professor of French studies at the University of Wriwick.

Overseas continued

ZAMBIA
INSURANCE BUSINESS
COLLEGE

The College, which is operated by the State Insurance Corporation in Zambia, provides courses for insurance and other professional examinations and also courses in business and management subjects. It has a staff of 100 and a library of 10,000 books. It is a full-time institution with a one-year diploma course and a two-year undergraduate degree course.

A lecturer is required in the College to teach the subjects of Insurance and Business. The successful candidate will be expected to have a degree in Business Administration or a related subject and to have at least five years' experience in teaching or in a similar position. The salary will be in the range of £10,000 to £12,000 per annum, plus benefits. Applications should be sent to the Director of Education, Zambia, P.O. Box 100, Lusaka, Zambia. Closing date: 31 December 1981.

Administration

FURTHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM
REVIEW AND DEVELOPMENT UNIT (FEU)

The Unit which was set up in 1977 by the then Secretary of State for Education and Science requires from April 1981:

A DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

to assume responsibility for a significant area of the Unit's work. Applicants should have worked in further education and/or training and must have experience of curriculum development and/or evaluation. An ability to work as a FEU team member, to work with FEU training staff at all levels in a variety of institutions and to write reports is necessary.

Experience in mainstream vocational education would be an advantage.

The post is London-based but considerable travel may be involved.

Salary range: £11,816-15,016 (including £1,018 p.a. inner London weighting).

The appointment will be for a period of three years—with a possible extension of not more than a further two years' appointment from present posts will be acceptable.

Application forms and further information are available from: Director, Further Education Curriculum Review and Development Unit, Elizabeth House, 38 York Road, London SE1 7PH (telephone 01-828 9222 Ext. 3123).

Closing date for receipt of application 01st January 1981.

Colleges of
Further EducationWESTMINSTER
COLLEGE,
OXFORD

Vice-Principal

The Governors invite applications for the post of Vice-Principal from 1st September 1981.

The College offers a four-year Honours Bachelor of Education degree, a Diploma of Higher Education, a Postgraduate Certificate in Education, and engages in a wide variety of in-service work. The College intends to begin some diversification in the area of theological education.

The salary will be within the range of salaries for Vice-Principal of a Group 5 College (currently £13,536-£14,637). The post is resident and a detached house is provided, free of charges, in the grounds of the College.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, Westminster College, North Hinkley, Oxford, OX2 3AT. Closing date for applications—31st January 1981.

Polytechnics continued

PAISLEY COLLEGE

Scottish School of Non-Destructive Testing

LECTURER 'A'

(Salary Scale £5,958 to £11,307)

Applications are invited for the above post. This person appointed will require to have a broad understanding of, and an enthusiasm for the teaching of non-destructive testing and quality engineering from a training level to post-graduate level. Allied to this will be a commitment to participating in industrial projects and research work already established in the school, and in initiating further developments.

Good academic and/or professional qualifications are required in a relevant scientific or engineering discipline, together with related work experience.

Application forms and further particulars are available from The Personnel Officer, Paisley College of Technology, High Street, Paisley, PA3 2SE. (Tel. No. 041587 1241 ext. 2301, to whom completed forms should be returned within ten days of the appearance of this advertisement.

Personal

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Applications are invited for

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Physical Geography

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V-Cs want to go it alone on streamlining

by John O'Leary

Universities will carry out their own rationalization exercises without the aid of central government, vice-chancellors say in their response to the select committee report on higher education.

The Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals has told Mr Mark Carls, Secretary of State for Education, that reviews of internal practice and regional discussions between universities are already commonplace. But they warn against expecting dramatic results too quickly.

Universities are very familiar with the challenges of a situation in which little new can start until

something old has been stopped", the CVCP says in its memorandum. "We are deeply aware of the increasing need for more and better changes and developments in response to new needs and new opportunities in a severely strained economic situation."

"Nevertheless it must be recognized that changes in university provision leading to a changed output of graduates takes several years: higher education is a long-term business."

The vice-chancellors repeat their general welcome to the select committee report but take issue with several of its detailed recommendations, which they see as threats to their autonomy and flexibility.

On the proposal for a Committee for Colleges and Polytechnics, for example, the CVCP opposes the establishment of a joint secretariat with the University Grants Committee. This could lead to "undesirable over-centralised planning and control."

Similarly, the vice-chancellors would oppose any obligation to make regular statements on roles and activities or to submit all new courses to the UGC for approval. They also have reservations about the payment of higher grants for students or salaries to teachers in shortage subjects.

Not surprisingly, the stiffest opposition is to the proposals in

the minority report from the committee for local planning and funding of all higher education, including the universities. Their institutions are inter-ministerial centres of teaching, scholarship and research, the vice-chancellors say, and there could be no step more likely to diminish their value in the nation.

Both the UGC and CVCP are said to be trying to create a climate of opinion in universities conducive to the most strenuous economic use of resources. But this must take into account not only the size of the teaching staff but also the needs of scholarship, research, postgraduate training, continuing education and both national and regional requirements.

Music festival cancelled after South Africa ban

by Ngalo Crequer

The next International Festival of Youth Orchestras has been cancelled because Exeter University, the proposed host, has banned the participation of South Africans.

The festival trustees this week angrily criticized the university for taking "a moral and political stand on the acceptability of young students from one country in a festival which promotes the importance of international co-operation for the welfare and brotherhood of all mankind."

The university council confirmed a senate motion to honour the first contract made for the staging of the festival in 1981 but ruled that the event could only take place at Exeter after 1981 if no South African had taken part. They asked for a written agreement from the festival organizers that South African participants would not be accepted or invited.

But the organizers found these terms totally unacceptable. They have cancelled the 1981 festival and are now looking for another permanent venue.

A spokesman for the university said this week there were two major reasons for its decision. "Some people think this is a good way to demonstrate a dislike of South African apartheid policies. Many people engaged in the government of the university do not relish the idea of continual demonstrations and rows. They are here to teach students and do research."

The festival, which has been staged for the last 12 years, involves about 1,500 young people aged between 11 and 23 from up to 16 countries.

The trustees said in a statement that the Exeter decision represented a permanent ban on South African participation in all future international festivals of youth and the performing arts in Exeter. This is the second time the festival has effectively been banned by a university. The festival moved to Exeter because of opposition at Aberdeen.

Flowers stops nuclear veto

Calls for students sponsored by the South African government to be banned from a course in nuclear technology have been turned down by governors of Imperial College, London.

A meeting of the governing body has rejected by 27 votes to three a proposal that recruitment to the one-year postgraduate course should be closed to candidates sponsored by corporations or the government of South Africa.

Both the Association of University Teachers and the students' union at Imperial had urged the college to take action in order to comply with a United Nations resolution calling for South Africa to be deprived of nuclear equipment and training.

Lord Flowers said he would have to consider the position of the whole course. If a decision was taken to depart from the principle of selection on academic criteria only, the college would have to see that its policies were in line with all UN resolutions. If it was to act on one, he added.

Students and staff will reconsider their position next term. Both groups had threatened further action if their proposal was rejected.

Recognition battle fails

by David Jobbins

Efforts to solve a long-running union recognition dispute at Ulster Polytechnic through negotiation seem to have failed.

It may be necessary for the Labour Relations Agency of the Northern Ireland equivalent of ACAS to put forward its own plan which can be imposed with the force of law.

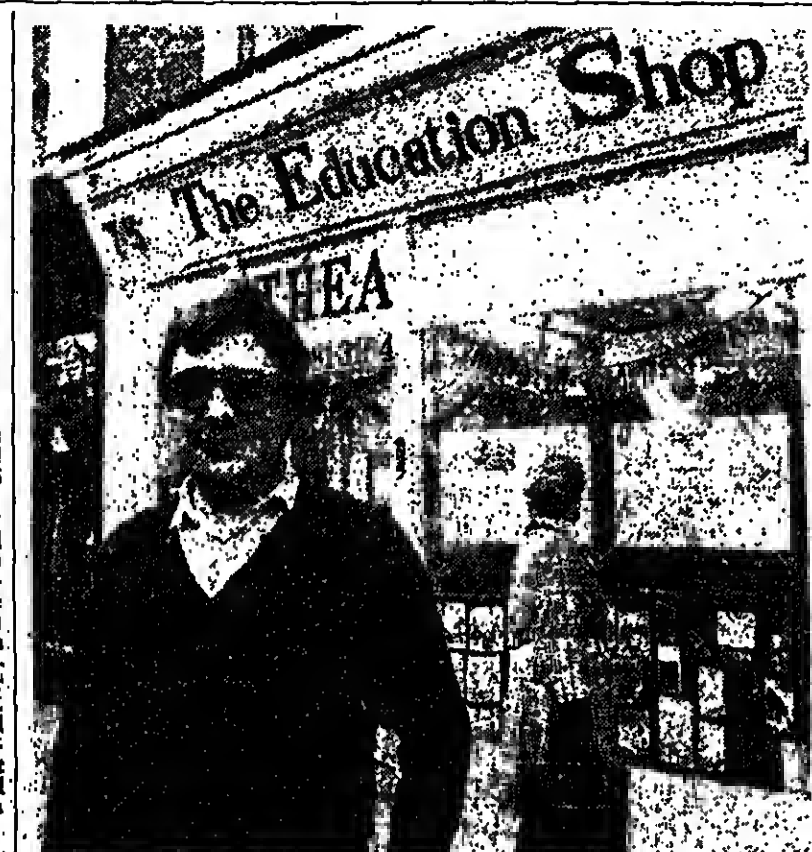
Both the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education and the Ulster Association of Polytechnic Teachers are seeking recognition of their rights at the polytechnic.

An unprecedented joint statement issued last week by the union and management said that the polytechnic had accepted that the union had a right to be consulted on matters of mutual interest and that the union had agreed to accept that the management had a right to manage the polytechnic.

A draft report based on a survey of staff wishes and has recommended full recognition for both unions. The unions say the point of breakdown is the failure of the management to recognize that the union are separate organizations and should have rights to negotiate separately.

The polytechnic's secretary, Dr R. H. McQuinn, said: "They have now come round to the view that they would be happy to have a joint negotiating committee so long as there are parallel and separate panels as well."

While the polytechnic welcomed the agreement to have a joint negotiating committee, it said it was not prepared to accept that the union had a right to be consulted on matters of mutual interest. The LRA said: "At the present time there does not seem much likelihood of agreement. It will be reached. The next step is for the LRA to prepare a final report which would be binding on the polytechnic."



Learning on the shopping list

Shoppers in Ramsay Road, New Ham, London, can now browse round the new Education Shop run by the Tower Hamlets Education Authority project. More than 80 people have come in seeking free information and advice since the shop opened four weeks ago.

THEA co-ordinator Kevin Burton (pictured) said: "Already we are proving the value of the service in breaking down the barriers and making education more accessible for adults. People are saying they didn't realize how much was available, or that they thought they were too old or needed formal qualifications."

THEA is an independent service which started up two years ago in temporary premises with a grant from the Inner London Education Authority and the David Foundation. Like the other 20 similar projects scattered round the country, its financial future is uncertain.

Since it began it has given advice to more than 1,000 adults, of whom 42 per cent were members of ethnic minorities and 55 per cent were women. About 70 per cent of customers were under 35, and of these half were unemployed.

More spokesmen for Labour

Labour has increased the size of its team of education spokesmen in the House of Commons following the election of the Shadow Cabinet.

Mr Neil Kinnock, who was re-appointed as chief Opposition spokesman on education after his success in the election, has also added a new post in his group to shadow Government ministers at the Department of Education and Science.

The new job will give responsibility for science to Mr. Ian Dwyer (West Lothian), who will deal with the subject in a wider brief than that covered by the DES.

Mr Phillip Whithead (Dorset North) will concentrate on provision for those over the age of 16 and Mr Frank Field (Birkenhead) on schools and nursery provision.

Mr Kinnock said the expansion had taken place as a response to the volume of business identified during the first year in Opposition. It had been agreed that greater specialisation was needed in order to provide the soundest possible base for future education legislation.

Mr Whithead will now take charge of two inquiries being launched by working groups of the party's education and science committees.

Higher grants for science graduates

Mathematics and science graduates are to be offered enhanced grants to attract them into teaching, the Government announced this week. High calibre graduates would be offered £500 a year on top of their ordinary grant to take postgraduate

teaching qualifications. Announcing the scheme this week, Mr Gattis, the Education Secretary, said the pilot scheme would run for two years at a cost of £40,000. Sixty scholarships would be awarded each year.

Professors' warning to Sir Keith

by Robin McKie
Science Correspondent

Engineering professors have Industry Secretary Sir Joseph about delegating power to the country's engineering institutions. In a letter to the Engineering Professors' Council states it is opposed to automatic delegation of power to the institutions over the nation's education and training programmes for young engineers proposed by the institutions in their plans for an engineering authority.

Chairman of the council Professor Robert Smith at Brunel University, said that some institutions already well-established accreditation schemes to check that no courses were of sufficient quality. This was not true of all bodies.

"Some courses are not by any one institution and case of general engineering there is obviously no engineering institution which take responsibility", he said.

Instead, control of the accreditation and training should be left to the new engineering authority which would have powers only when it considered necessary.

In general, said Professor Smith, the conference was united towards the idea of characterising engineering which would be the profession.

In their letter, the engineering professors also call for the principles to guide the establishment of the authority. The new must involve further collaboration between universities, colleges, suppliers of graduates and engineering employers—their graduates," they say.

Solution sought over redundancies

College lecturers and their authority employers are to renew attempt to resolve their standing conflict over redundancy procedures.

The aim is a solution which remove possible threats to national joint council on special services, which both sides see as the basis for pay negotiations once the Remuneration of Teachers Act is repealed.

Talks about the status of the agreement with the Council of Education Authorities came to breakdown two weeks ago from new initiatives, envisaged from a weekend's meeting of the Association of Teachers' in Further and Higher Education.

General secretary Mr Peter Dawson was authorised to arrange a meeting between elected members of the NJC and senior union members. This took place on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Dawson said afterwards: "It was reasonably helpful that the members of each side will be able to make proposals which are acceptable to both parties."

The NJC could meet early in the New Year to discuss the new proposals.

NEXT WEEK

Roger Morgan on Europe
Ethics and education
P. W. Taylor on the atmosphere
History of the AUT anomaly
Overseas aid "Briefing"
J. H. Smith on Elton Mayo

Handwritten text: 10/11/80